

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

IO-10 ACDA-05 ( ISO ) W

----- 078690

R 071245Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4721

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 251

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, LT

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER KOTSOKOANE'S STATEMENTS AGAINST  
DETENTE

REF: A. GABORONE 304; B. LUSAKA 326

1. FOREIGN MINISTER KOTSOKOANE HAS NOT RETURNED TO LESOTHO  
SINCE HIS REPORTED CRITICISM OF BOTSWANA, TANZANIA, AND ZAMBIA  
ON SUBJECT OF DETENTE AT OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING.  
OTHER OFFICIALS IN MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS APPEAR TO BE WITHOUT  
GUIDANCE ON DETENTE AND WE HAVE REFRAINED FROM ASKING THEM TO  
COMMENT ON MINISTER'S REPORTED STATEMENTS. GOL HAS ISSUED  
NO STATEMENT ON SUBJECT AND PROBABLY WILL NOT DO SO UNTIL  
MINISTER'S RETURN, EXPECTED MARCH 8.

2. GOL'S ATTITUDE TOWARD CURRENT MOVES TO BRING ABOUT  
"DETENTE", WHICH IT CONSIDERS ANOTHER WORD FOR "DIALOGUE",  
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IS ONE OF SKEPTICISM. SINCE DETENTE EFFORT STARTED, PRIME

MINISTER, MINISTER OF FINANCE, AND OTHER HIGH RANKING GOL OFFICIALS HAVE COMMENTED TO US IN PRIVATE THAT THEY WILL WAIT AND SEE, BUT THAT BASED ON THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE IN TRYING TO CARRY ON DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA IN EARLY 1970'S, THEY DO NOT BELIEVE CURRENT EFFORT WILL SUCCEED IN BRINGING ABOUT REAL CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH IS REAL ISSUE. THEY DO NOT TRUST SAG, WHICH, IN THEIR VIEW, IS SIMPLY TRYING TO GAIN TIME TO FURTHER IMPLEMENT HOMELANDS POLICY AND TO PRESENT WORLD WITH ACCOMPLISHED FACT OF SEPARATION OF RACES. IN THESE OFFICIALS' VIEW, ONLY BASIS ON WHICH TO PURSUE DIALOGUE, OR DETENTE, WITH SOUTH AFRICA IS ACCEPTANCE BY SAG OF PRINCIPLE THAT ALL PEOPLE OF SA SHARE COMMON CITIZENSHIP AND SHOULD SHARE IN POLITICAL POWER. GOL FEELS IT HAD ITS HANDS BURNED IN EARLY EFFORTS TOWARD DIALOGUE AND IS SOMEWHAT PIQUED THAT SOME OF OAU COUNTRIES WHICH CRITICIZED IT SEVERELY IN THOSE DAYS ARE NOW SUPPORTING DETENTE EVEN THOUGH NO REAL CHANGE HAS TAKEN PLACE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

3. WE STILL HAVE NO DETAILED REPORT ON KOTSOKOANE'S PRECISE STATEMENTS, BUT FROM FRAGMENTARY REPORTS THEY SEEM TO HAVE BEEN INTEMPERATE. STATEMENTS ALMOST SURELY WERE NOT CLEARED WITH GOL IN ADVANCE, BUT NEVERTHELESS PROBABLY REFLECT, AT LEAST IN SUBSTANCE IF NOT IN STYLE, GOL'S ATTITUDE TOWARD DETENTE. TONE OF KOTSOKOANE'S STATEMENTS AND PUBLICITY THEY HAVE GAINED PROBABLY ARE CAUSING GOOD DEAL OF DISCOMFORT TO GOL SINCE IT IS DEFINITELY NOT GOVERNMENT'S PRACTICE TO PUBLICLY CRITICIZE FELLOW OAU STATES.

4. KOTSOKOANE IS ONE OF MOST CHARMING AND AFFABLE MEMBERS OF LESOTHO GOVERNMENT BUT IS ALSO ONE OF MOST LOQUACIOUS AND IS INCLINED, PERHAPS, TO TALK MORE THAN HE SHOULD WHEN HE HAS THE PODIUM. FURTHERMORE, HE WAS RAISED AND EDUCATED IN SOUTH AFRICA AND HAS AN ABIDING HATRED OF APARTHEID AND DISTRUST OF WHITE LEADERSHIP THERE. HE IS ALSO SENSITIVE TO CHARGES LEVELED AT HIM WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED MINISTER THAT HE WAS A "FOREIGNER", AND TO SOME EXTENT HE MAY BE OVERCOMPENSATING. THESE FACTORS HELP TO EXPLAIN, IF NOT, JUSTIFY, HIS INTEMPERATE STATEMENTS.  
HAUGHT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DETENTE, PERSONAL OPINION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MASERU00251  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750081-0131  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 GABORONE 304, 75 LUSAKA 326  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FOREIGN MINISTER KOTSOKOANE'S STATEMENTS AGAINST DETENTE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, LT, BC, TZ, ZA, SF, OAU, (KOTSOKOANE, JOSEPH R L)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006